

Although differing in slight details from specimens collected in the east, there can be no doubt that it belongs to this species, and it can scarcely be considered as even varietally distinct. There are four leaves below the fertile branch, which although unusual, is not unknown. The plants are also slightly shorter than in most collections from the northern and eastern states, although a few others collected along the border of the range show a similar tendency.

The region about Natchitoches is one of low hills dissected by creeks and bayous. The *Uvularia* was growing on a slope in upland woods in sandy soil enriched with humus, and in association with such other plants of rather northern range as *Erythronium americanum*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Dentaria laciniata*, *Cardamine pennsylvanica* and *Viola papilionacea*.

It is interesting to note that although this record extends the range of the species so much farther west and beyond the Mississippi River, it is still found within the same belt, between the piedmont and the low coastal plain, which it mainly follows around the eastern and southern sides of the continent, although extending somewhat further inland along the Great Lakes.—ERNEST J. PALMER and EDGAR ANDERSON, Arnold Arboretum.

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## A MUTATION IN *RUBUS PARVIFLORUS*<sup>1</sup>

FREDERICK J. HERMANN

### Plate 326

OF THE three thornless, simple-leaved species of *Rubus* in eastern North America, the two shrubby species, *Rubus odoratus* L. and *R. parviflorus* Nutt. (§ *Anoplobatus* Focke, accorded generic status by Necker<sup>2</sup> as *Bossekia* and by Rydberg<sup>3</sup> as *Rubacer*) occur in Michigan. Beal's statement<sup>4</sup> of the distribution of the former species in the State is somewhat ambiguous. He refers to it as occurring throughout Michigan ("so far as known"), states that it is known from Ft. Gratiot (St. Clair Co.) northward, is common in the Upper Peninsula and in the Lower Peninsula north of Houghton Lake but that it has not been observed in the region south of this lake. It is represented

<sup>1</sup> Papers from the Department of Botany and Herbarium of the University of Michigan. no. 463.

<sup>2</sup> Necker; Elem. 2:91. 1790.

<sup>3</sup> Rydberg, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 30:274. 1903.

<sup>4</sup> Beal, Michigan Flora, 87 (1904).

in the University of Michigan Herbarium from St. Clair, Osceola and Presque Isle Counties. If it occurs as far north as Houghton and Keweenaw Counties it must be a rarity there since the writer during several years of botanizing in these counties has never detected it. It is primarily an eastern species ranging from Nova Scotia to Georgia and apparently reaching in Michigan the western limit of its range.

The eastern limit of the range of its nearest relative, *Rubus parviflorus*, coincides approximately with the western limit of *R. odoratus*. It occurs sparingly in western Ontario, becomes more common northward and westward through Michigan and Minnesota, and is a plentiful species from the Rockies to the Pacific coast. Beal gives Elk Rapids (Grand Traverse Co.) as its southernmost station in Michigan and states that it is frequent at Petoskey (Emmet Co.) and common farther north. In the University of Michigan Herbarium it is represented from Presque Isle, Emmet, Mackinac, Menominee, Marquette, Baraga, Ontonogon, Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. In Houghton and Keweenaw Counties it is a familiar sight. Indeed, one seldom enters a grove there where the characteristic fragrance of its glandular stems may not be detected. Here it is known as "Thimbleberry," and its delicious fruit, the most prized of the native "berries" belies the derogatory terms of the manuals ("insipid," "scarcely edible,") so indiscriminately applied to it throughout its range. The disparaging adjectives are appropriate only for the fruit of the plant in the West (the "salmon berry") which rarely has sufficient moisture to develop more than a cluster of dry drupes.

These two plants, with the western *R. deliciosus* James and *R. Chamaemorus* L., are markedly in contrast with their North American congeners in being hemicryptophytes and in normally lacking the compound leaves so characteristic of the other species of the genus. The writer has been familiar for many years with *R. parviflorus* in the two northernmost counties of Michigan, where it is a dominant under-shrub in vast stretches of coniferous and hardwood forest, and in the aspen and spruce zones of the Rocky Mountains, the Cascades and Sierra Nevadas. Its large, simple, five-lobed or -angled leaves display so little variation in outline that it was a decided surprise to come upon a plant, amid a large colony of the typical plant, near Agate Harbor, Keweenaw Co., Michigan, which possessed only palmately-compound leaves with the leaflets deeply lobed and incised. In all other vegetative characters the plant resembled the typical form. It was not in flower or fruit. Since the occurrence of such sporadic

mutations seems to be frequently induced by some injury to the plant,<sup>1</sup> the compound-leaved *Rubus* was carefully examined for evidence of injury but none, superficial at least, could be detected. An intensive search through a large part of the colony failed to reveal any further mutations.

This very distinctive form of the "thimbleberry" may be known as

*RUBUS PARVIFLORUS* Nutt., forma **pedatifidus**, forma nov. (Pl. 0, FIG. 2) laminis foliorum palmato-compositis, segmentis valde lobatis incisisque.—MICHIGAN: edge of abandoned road in spruce woods near Silver Isle, west of Agate Harbor, Keweenaw County, August 26, 1928, *F. J. Hermann*, no. 2188 (TYPE in Herbarium of the University of Michigan).

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#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE 326

FIG. 1. *RUBUS PARVIFLORUS* Nutt. Typical form (*F. J. Hermann*, no. 2187) from the same locality as the plant of fig. 2. FIG. 2. *RUBUS PARVIFLORUS* Nutt., f. **PEDATIFIDUS**, forma nov. (TYPE, *F. J. Hermann*, no. 2188).

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## A NEW SPECIES OF *NEUROLAENA* FROM BRITISH HONDURAS

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THE small tropical American genus *Neurolaena*, belonging in the *Senecio* tribe of the *Compositae*, may within this group be pretty readily distinguished by its 3-5-seriate involucre, homogamous heads and chaffy receptacle. The species at first appear to be, and often in fact are reported as, herbaceous plants, but they frequently attain considerable height (3-6 m.) and the stems become at least softly woody toward the base. They are often rather stately plants with conspicuous corymbs of golden yellow or greenish yellow flowers.

The late Dr. Rydberg, when treating *Neurolaena* for the North American Flora, recognized five species. One of these, namely *N. lobata* (L.) R. Br., is of rather wide tropical dispersal, occurring from southern Mexico and many of the West Indian Islands to Dutch Guiana and southward to Peru. It seems to be rather common and is often included in the gatherings of collectors making their first journeys to tropical America. Notwithstanding its yellow flowers and chaffy disk it is frequently taken for a *Eupatorium*. Indeed, it

<sup>1</sup> Cf., for example, Fernald & Harris on *Polygonatum pubescens*, forma *fultius*, *RHODORA* 35: 405. 1933.